

# Importance of Regular Monitoring to Permit Adaptive Management

In a High Threat Landscape

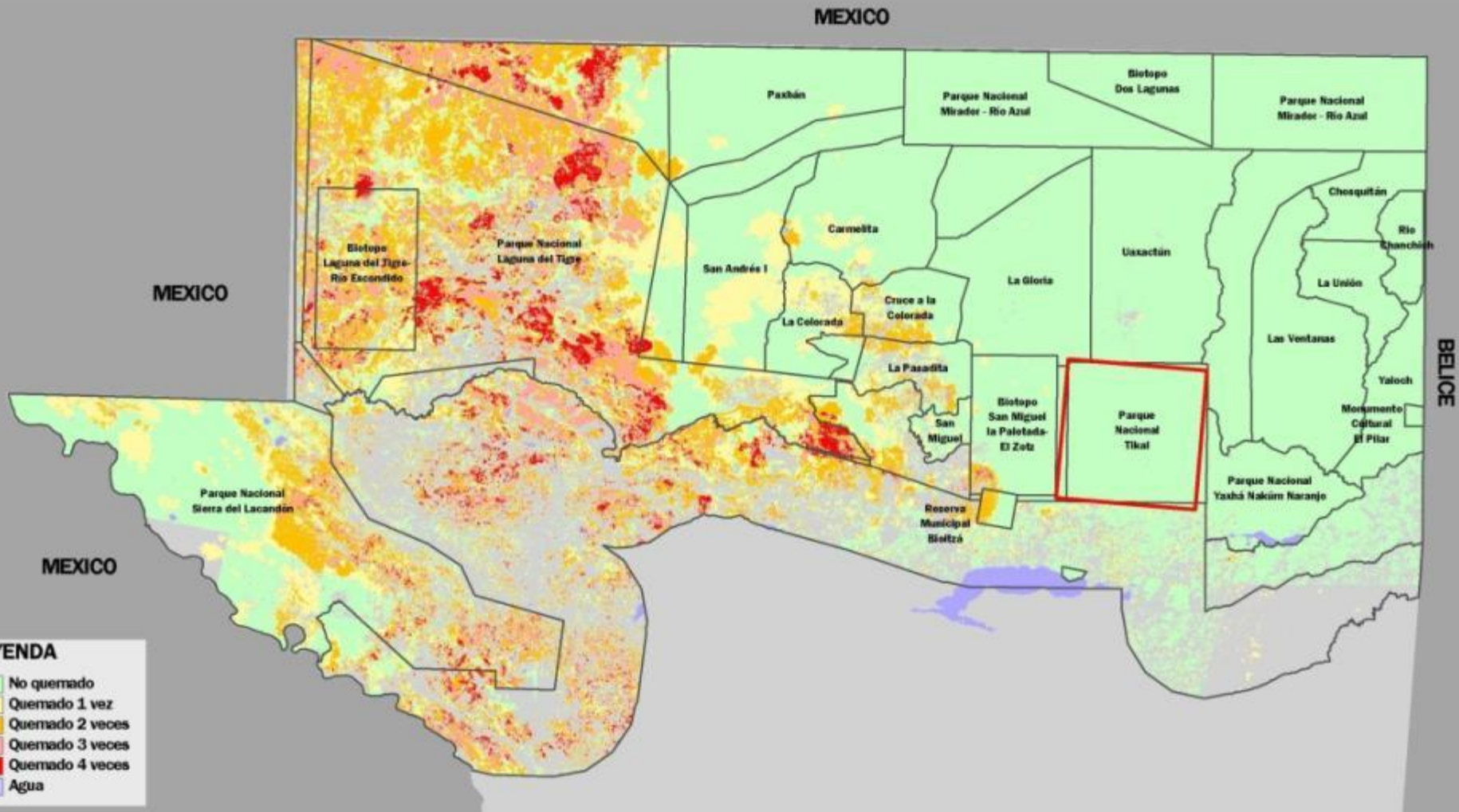
Eastern Maya Biosphere  
Peten, Guatemala



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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Guatemala Program

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# Results

**1) 625,000 Hectares under Improved Management**

**2) Number of Policy Successes: 4**

- Mirador-Rio Azul Roundtable Recognition by Gua. Govt.
- New National Norm for “Xate” Management
- Recision of Illegal Land Titles (Laguna del Tigre National Park)
- Initiation of Gua. Govt. Strategy to Recuperate Governance

**3) Signing of the 1st Community Conservation Agreement in Guatemala (CI-CSP) in Uaxactún; 2nd = Paso Caballos; 3rd= Carmelita Community Jaguar Reserve**

**4) Fifty-seven (57) scarlet macaw chicks fledged in the last 3 years**

**5) Development of Asociación Balam into a Leading Guatemalan Conservation NGO**

# Lessons Learned

- Monitoring field presence led to significant improvements in the protection of highly threatened macaw nesting habitat = *Process as important\* as the data generated: Field Presence*
- Community participation in field monitoring built local capacity and trust, and was very effective at raising local awareness = *Process as important\* as the data generated*
- Overflights ➡ publicity in fora and press ➡ concrete action = *Personal experience and evocative photos had greater impact than remote sensing data and technical reports*
- Continual monitoring helped underscore the need for triage = *Acceleration of landscape transformation must be documented and demonstrated regularly*
- *Greatest impact = regular monitoring + community involvement + Civil Society networks/fora/press ➡ Gov. & donor awareness ➡ Conservation Action*
- *Continuity = essential for impact (USAID Guatemala ➡ USAID/GCPII ➡ DFID/UK + USAID Guatemala: implementation of interventions) = 12 years*

# FUTURE PLANS

- Continue field-based monitoring and continue to link in complimentary activities to ensure impact
- Build on lessons learned → support local partners to implement interventions and adapt them over time
- Expand on the Maya Biosphere Landscape approach to the lowland Maya Forest → predict the effects of a changing **CLIMATE** on ecological, social, and economic systems → design and evaluate adaptations for sustainability